

Message Text

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17

ACTION OES-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-14 INR-05 L-01 EB-03 PM-03

SP-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /043 W

----- 116613

R 260639Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5524

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6033

FOLG MSG RECD AS ACTION RPTD FOR YOUR INFO. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 1005

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECRE, SENV, IN

SUBJ: INDIA'S FARAKKA OFFTAKE AND HOOGHLY WATER FLOW

1. SENIOR INDIAN NAVAL SOURCE, WHO IS CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH CALCUTTA PORT, TELLS US THAT INDIA IS DIVERTING FROM THE GANGES VIA FARAKKA 40,000 CUSECS OF WATER PER DAY DOWN THE HOOGHLY AT PRESENT. SOURCE SAID THE GOI WILL CONTINUE TO DIVERT THIS AMOUNT AS IT IS THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN THE HARBOR.

2. SOURCE SAID THE PROBLEM IS ONE OF MAINTAINING THE VELOCITY OF THE WATER IN THE RIVER; MAIN PURPOSE OF FARAKKA IS TO KEEP DOWN THE NUMBER OF BORE TIDES WHICH COME UP THE RIVER. IN THE 1940'S THE NUMBER OF BORE TIDES WAS LESS THAN 100 BUT HAD RISEN TO 196 DURING THE EARLY SEVENTIES, AND THE RIVER IS NOT NAVIGABLE DURING THE TIDES. IN ADDITION TO THE BARRAGE, GOI MUST ALSO BUILD EMBANKMENTS ALONG THE RIVER TO KEEP THE FLOW OF WATER IN A RESTRICTED CHANNEL THEREBY INCREASING ITS VELOCITY. THOUGH THE GOI HAS NOT YET UNDERTAKEN THIS

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WORK, PLANS ARE IN THE PROCESS. THE CURRENT MAXIMUM

DRAFT OF THE RIVER TO CALCUTTA IS 27 FEET. SOURCE SAID
INCREASED FLOW OF WATER IS ALSO HELPING TO KEEP THE
RIVER CHANNEL FLUSHED OUT BUT EMPHASIZED THAT THE MAIN
PURPOSE OF THE BARRAGE IS TO DECREASE THE NUMBER OF
BORE TIDES. KORN UNQUOTE.
SAXBE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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